

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2616

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MANAGUA 4026

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NU

SUBJECT: THE MEXICAN PLAN ARRIVES

1. AFTER A SERIES OF DELAYS, OCCASIONED IN PART BY A TRIP BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARDS AFTER CRITICISM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES, AND IN PART BY A DAMAGING QUAKE IN MEXICO ITSELF, THE MEXICAN PLAN HAS ARRIVED IN MANAGUA. ON SEPTEMBER 29, THE MEXICAN SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS, LUIS ENRIQUE BRACAMONTE, DELIVERED THE COMPLETED PLAN TO GEN. ANASTASIO SOMOZA. WHILE SUFFICIENT COPIES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION, AID HAS HAD ACCESS TO THE DOCUMENTS AND ITS RELEVANT STAFF HAVE THIS WEEK BEEN STUDYING THE PLAN WITH URBANISMO. HENCE PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ARE POSSIBLE.

2. FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT, IT IS A CONCEPTUAL PLAN. IT IS NOT AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE A DEFINITIVE ACTION DOCUMENT. AID'S PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE PLAN INDICATES THAT RECOMMENDATIONS OF VON MOTLKE/MANN, AND TO AN EXTENT DYCKMAN, HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE PLAN, WHICH IS IN ESSENCE A GRAFTING OF THE LINEAR CITY CONCEPT ON THE PREVIOUS RADIAL CONCENTRIC DESIGN OF MANAGUA INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING KEY FEATURES: (A) DECENTRALIZATION/DECONCENTRATION OF CITY; (B) HEAVY EMPHASIS ON FUTURE GROWTH

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OF SE QUADRANT INCLUDING HOUSING, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

FACILITIES; (C) USE OF PREVIOUS CENTER OF CITY AS LOW-DENSITY "CONTROLLED USE ZONE" CHARACTERIZED BY LARGE GREEN AREAS, AND SOME GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTIONAL USE. THE PLAN ALSO RECOMMENDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL RELATIVELY SELF-SUFFICIENT POPULATION CENTERS WITHIN THE GREATER MANAGUA AREA, EACH WITH ITS OWN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BASIC COMMERCE AND SOCIAL CENTERS. EACH CENTER IS ALSO TO BE CONSTRUCTED NEAR JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE CONCEPTUAL PLAN ITSELF, THE MEXICAN DOCUMENTS INCLUDE AN EXCELLENT DRAFT OF RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR A BUILDING CODE, AND A GEOLOGIC ANALYSIS OF SOMEWHAT LESSER SCIENTIFIC QUALITY. IN ADDITION THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED A TEAM OF TECHNICIANS FOR QUOTE AS LONG AS NECESSARY END QUOTE TO ASSIST THE GON IN DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROJECTS RELATED TO THEIR CONCEPTUAL PLAN.

COMMENT: THE CONCEPTUAL PLAN IS HIGHLY ARCHITECTURAL/STRUCTURAL IN NATURE, WITH INADEQUATE TREATMENT OF ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND PRIORITIES. ALTHOUGH IT IS ENTIRELY PROPER THAT THE NICARAGUANS THEMSELVES RESOLVE THESE HARD PROBLEMS, A REPETITION OF EARLIER CRITICISMS THAT THE PLAN IS INCOMPLETE MAY BE FORTHCOMING. OF COURSE, AT THIS STATE, ANY CRITICISM WOULD BE BASED ON LITTLE REAL INFORMATION. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT THIS PLAN OFFERS A SOUND BASIS FOR NICARAGUANS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO PROCEED.
SHELTON

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